



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PSC SETS INTERVENTION DEADLINE IN EMBARQ REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE CLASSIFICATION IN SOME OF ITS EXCHANGES

JEFFERSON CITY—Embarq Missouri, Inc. (Embarq Missouri) has filed an application with the Public Service Commission seeking competitive classification for all of its residential services, other than exchange access service, in its Buckner, Lake Lotawana, Oak Grove, Odessa and Pleasant Hill exchanges. Embarq Missouri is formerly Sprint Missouri, Inc. (Sprint).

If competitive status is granted, Embarq Missouri would no longer be subject to price or rate regulation by the PSC in the above exchanges. Embarq Missouri would be permitted to raise or lower its telephone prices at its own discretion, subject to the marketplace. The PSC would continue to regulate quality of service, service termination and other billing issues.

Applications to intervene and participate in this case must be filed on or before **July 6, 2006**, with the Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. Copies of the application should be sent to: Linda Gardner, Embarq Missouri, Inc., 6450 Sprint Parkway, Overland Park, Kansas 66251; and the Office of the Public Counsel, P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-2230. The Office of the Public Counsel is a separate state agency which represents the general public in matters before the PSC.

The PSC Staff, the Office of the Public Counsel and any other interested party are to file any objections or recommendations regarding Embarq Missouri's request by July 10, 2006.

In this case, state law requires the Commission to issue its decision within 30 days of Embarq Missouri's June 29, 2006 filing. Under the law, the 30-day criteria for determining competitive classification is based upon the existence of two other entities providing basic local telecommunications service, one of which may be a wireless provider, the other a wireline company providing local voice service using facilities in which it has a partial or full ownership interest.

If any party opposes Embarq Missouri's application, a hearing will be held on July 18, 2006, in Room 310 of the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, in Jefferson City, Missouri. The Governor Office Building meets accessibility standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. If any person needs additional accommodations to participate in this hearing, please call the Public Service Commission's hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 prior to the hearing.

Note: Embarq Missouri filed an application on June 22, 2006 which sought competitive classification for all of its residential services, other than exchange access service, in its Buckner, St. Robert, Waynesville, Lake Lotawana, Oak Grove, Odessa and Pleasant Hill exchanges. It also sought classification for all of its business services, other than exchange access service, in its Lebanon exchange. That application was voluntarily withdrawn by Embarq Missouri on June 28, 2006.